Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-4 **(Cancelled)**

5. **(New)** A reciprocating compressor comprising

a hermetic container, and

a compressing element accommodated in said hermetic container to compress refrigerant gas, said compressing element including:

a crankshaft including a main shaft having a main shaft axis and an eccentric section having an eccentric section axis;

a block forming a cylindrical cylinder having a cylinder axis;

a piston disposed for reciprocation in said cylinder;

a connecting rod connecting said eccentric section to said piston in such a manner that said connecting rod swings about said eccentric section axis of said eccentric section upon rotation of said crankshaft; and

a balancing weight for balancing vibrations produced by operation of at least one of said piston, said connecting rod and said eccentric section,

wherein said cylinder is disposed in an offset position such that said cylinder axis does not cross said main shaft axis, and

wherein a center of gravity of said balancing weight is located at a position substantially opposite to said eccentric section axis with respect to said main shaft axis but deviated, in a rotating direction of said main shaft, from a location exactly opposite to said eccentric section axis with respect to said main shaft axis.

6. **(New)** The reciprocating compressor of claim 5, wherein said piston and said balancing weight are arranged such that, when said piston is at a top dead center position, the center of gravity of said balancing weight is located in a position that is offset from said cylinder axis but not beyond a plane that includes said main shaft axis and is parallel with said cylinder axis.

7. **(New)** The reciprocating compressor of claim 5, wherein the refrigerant gas is provided in said hermetic container, and said refrigerant gas is R600a gas.

8. **(New)** The reciprocating compressor of claim 5, further comprising an inverter arranged to drive said crankshaft, said inverter being configured to operate at a frequency not greater than a commercial power frequency.

9. **(New)** The reciprocating compressor of claim 5, wherein said crankshaft is generally vertical.